

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process, comprising a thermal treatment of sodium percarbonate immediately following a drying step subsequent to a production process of sodium percarbonate wherein the thermal treatment is performed for a time of at least 2 minutes at a temperature from 80 to 95°C without adding a coating agent, while maintaining the active oxygen content virtually constant, and ambient air surrounding the sodium percarbonate is continuously replaced.

Claim 2 (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the sodium percarbonate is coated.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature is from 85 to 95°C.

Claim 5 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the time is from 5 to 60 minutes.

Claim 6 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the time is from 10 to 60 minutes.

Claim 7 (Original): A sodium percarbonate particulate made by the process according to Claim 1.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the sodium percarbonate is in a fluidized layer, atmospheric air is heated to a treatment temperature from 80 to 95°C; and the atmospheric air is passed through the fluidized layer.

Claim 9 (Original): The process according to Claim 8, wherein the atmospheric air is heated by flue gases.

Claim 10 (Original): The process according to Claim 8, wherein the thermal treatment is performed in a fluidized bed.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process, comprising a thermal treatment of sodium percarbonate immediately following a drying step subsequent to a production process of sodium percarbonate wherein the thermal treatment is performed at a temperature from 80 to 95°C without adding a coating agent and ambient air surrounding the sodium percarbonate is continuously replaced.

Claim 12 (Original) The process according to Claim 11, wherein the sodium percarbonate is coated.

Claim 13 (Original): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the temperature is from 85 to 95 °C.

Claim 14 (Original): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the sodium percarbonate is treated for a time of at least 2 minutes.

Claim 15 (Original): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the sodium percarbonate is treated for a time from 10 to 60 minutes.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 11, wherein the sodium percarbonate is in a fluidized layer,
atmospheric air is heated to a treatment temperature from 80 to 95°C for a time of at least 2 minutes; and
the atmospheric air is passed through the fluidized layer.

Claim 17 (Original): The process according to Claim 16, wherein the atmospheric air is heated by flue gases.

Claim 18 (Original): The process according to Claim 16, wherein the thermal treatment is performed in a fluidized bed.

Claim 19 (Original): A sodium percarbonate particulate made by the process according to Claim 11.

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Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2003.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

BASIS FOR AMENDMENT

The claims have been limited to the thermal treatment of sodium percarbonate where the conventional processes and/or coating processes end, as note page 9, lines 1-2 of the specification.